

## ***FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** April 19, 2018

**Agenda Item:** Little Muddy Creek Fishing Access Site Easement (R4)

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

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### **Background:**

Little Muddy Creek FAS is a 22-acre site located on the Missouri River a short way downstream from the community of Cascade. The property is owned by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) School Trust Division and has been leased as an FAS since 2007. Topographical features as well as a very shallow shoreline limit angling use to wade fishing. Development consists of a small parking area, vault latrine, signage and fencing. DNRC recently appraised the property value of the site at \$55,000 or \$2,500-acre. Rather than continue leasing the site Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase a permanent easement from DNRC. The purchase of an easement will provide FWP a perpetual interest in the property that is no longer subject to market fluctuations and annual escalator increases.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results:**

Public comment will be solicited following Commission endorsement.

### **Alternatives and Analysis:**

Alternatives and the subsequent analysis will be conducted by the Department upon approval by the Commission.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale:**

FWP recommends that the Commission approve the Department to initiate discussions with DNRC regrading obtaining a permanent easement as opposed to a lease on the Little Muddy Creek FAS. It offers the advantage of paying a onetime fee based on current market values and would eliminate continuing to pay future lease fees for an indefinite period of time based on market fluctuations and continued reappraisals of the property.

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorse FWP's request to pursue an easement from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation in place of a lease on the Little Muddy Creek Fishing Access Site.